

CHEMPACK Protocol at a glance

Introduction

The CHEMPACK program serves to augment existing local capabilities to respond to incidents involving chemical nerve agent or organophosphate release. It consists of the forward-placement of sixteen (16) containers of nerve agent antidotes at fifteen (15) different sites. CHEMPACK is designated to treat exposed and symptomatic victims, NOT prevent individuals from becoming ill.

- **Sensitive information disclaimer:** Because of the very sensitive nature of this program, locations of Cache Sites are not to be discussed outside of work or with those without a clearly understood “need to know.” Under [42 USC § 247d-6b and 5 USC § 552](#) (United States Code), agencies are prohibited from disclosing any information identifying the location at which CHEMPACK containers are stored.

Contact information

- The Utah Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) can be contacted 24/7 at 866.364.8824
- Hospitals, EMS, Local Health Departments or Emergency Managers have identified points of contact (POCs) which will be identified to local areas.

What is a CHEMPACK?

- A first responder asset that is strategically placed across the state that provides antidotes for individuals exposed to a nerve agent or organophosphate release.

When to request CHEMPACK

- A request for CHEMPACK should be considered in all incidents involving human exposure to a chemical nerve agent or organophosphate. Deployment of CHEMPACK to treat a single casualty or patient is permissible.

How to request a CHEMPACK

- CHEMPACK assets may be requested by the on-scene Incident Commander. They may also be requested by a hospital's Emergency Department Physician or Charge Nurse in a hospital setting.
- All requests for CHEMPACK should be directed to the local CHEMPACK site either Hospital or EMS, DEM, LHD, or other designated site point of contact (POC) in conjunction with Utah Department of Health and Human Services - Emergency Medical Services and Preparedness 24/7 On Call Number: 866-364-8824. This is a 24/7 on-call system for public health emergencies.

Deployment and receipt of CHEMPACK

- All requests for CHEMPACK, whether from the field, a hospital, or from a cache site seeking to deploy internally or externally, should be coordinated with DHHS which in turn will coordinate with the Division of Emergency Management (DEM) where a mission will be created and coordinated.
- The Utah Highway Patrol may be requested to transport materiel from the cache site to the incident site (upon availability of personnel and equipment) The DHHS 24/7 On Call Number is: 866-364-8824.
- Once a request for CHEMPACK is received, a decision will be made by the jurisdictional CHEMPACK cache site in conjunction with DHHS and determination of an appropriate cache site (some sites will be closer if flown by a helicopter or in frontier areas) and will forward the request. The DHHS will also coordinate with a transportation resource to retrieve and deliver the assets back to the originating cache site

Administration of CHEMPACK

- Refer to Utah EMS protocol or hospital guidelines at the direction of medical control

Demobilization

Following the deployment of CHEMPACK, and after the incident is stabilized, the Federal CHEMPACK program and DHHS will issue guidance for the management of any unused CHEMPACK assets. These assets are the property of DHHS; no assets are to be disposed of or retained without the DHHS's explicit instruction to do so.